

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Programme Office in Astana



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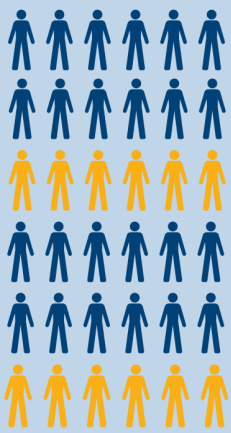
WHO WE ARE

The Programme Office in Astana is an OSCE field operation based in the capital of Kazakhstan, Astana. Based on the Decision of the Permanent Council No. 1153, from 1 January 2015, the OSCE Centre in Astana was transformed into an "OSCE Programme Office in Astana". The Office develops, implements and reports on programmatic activities within all three OSCE dimensions of security.

As of 23 September 2022 the name of the Programme Office in Nur-Sultan was changed to Programme Office in Astana following a name change of Kazakhstan's capital. The change is reflected in the Journal of the 1390th Plenary Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council. The Mandate remains unchanged.

The Office maintains contacts with central and local authorities, universities, research institutes, representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations. It helps arrange OSCE regional events, including regional seminars and OSCE delegation visits.

The Office provides assistance to the Government of Kazakhstan by building the capacity of national stakeholders and by facilitating the information exchange between OSCE institutions and relevant state agencies on OSCE activities.



Staff members:
It has a staff of six international and 22 national personnel.

Mandate

The Office is entrusted with supporting Kazakhstan in implementing OSCE principles and commitments in all three dimensions within the OSCE framework approach to cooperative security, and in the regional context. The Office maintains contacts with central and local authorities, universities, research institutes, representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations. It helps arrange OSCE regional events, including regional seminars and OSCE delegation visits. The Office provides assistance to the Government of Kazakhstan by building the capacity of national stakeholders and by facilitating the information exchange between OSCE institutions and relevant state agencies on OSCE activities. It also contributes to raising awareness of the OSCE's values, principles and field activities among government and non-governmental institutions.

Unified Budget: €2,232,700

Extrabudgetary actual expenditure: €646,644.92



Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana

Ambassador Alexey Rogov from Russia was appointed Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana on 1 September 2025. Ambassador Rogov has been a counsellor for the Russian delegation to the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, head of the desk – human rights and civil society at the Russian Mission to the UN, New York and Minister – Counsellor at the Russian Embassy in Denmark, Copenhagen. Prior to his appointment in Astana, he was the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek.

HISTORY

The **OSCE** has a comprehensive approach to security that encompasses **politico-military, economic and environmental, and human aspects**. It therefore addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, rule of law, democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental activities.

All 57 participating States enjoy equal status, and decisions are taken by consensus on a politically, but not legally binding basis.

1 August 1975, Helsinki

A foundational document for the OSCE/CSCE, the **Helsinki Final Act** set key principles such as sovereignty, human rights, and peaceful dispute resolution. It remains a cornerstone of the Organization's mission.



1 January 1995, Budapest

To reflect its expanded role and responsibilities, the **Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE)** was renamed the **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)** with its Secretariat in Vienna. This change marked a shift toward active conflict prevention and field work.



23 July 1998, Almaty

The OSCE established its first field presence in Kazakhstan with the **OSCE Centre in Almaty**.



June 2007, Astana

The **OSCE Centre in Astana** was formally relocated by decision of the OSCE to support Kazakhstan's reform and co-operation efforts in line with the Organization's mandate.



1-2 December 2010, Astana

Kazakhstan, as **Chair of the OSCE** hosted the **first OSCE Summit since 1999**, resulting in the **Astana Commemorative Declaration**, which reaffirmed commitment to OSCE principles. It remains the most recent summit held by the OSCE.



1 January 2015, Astana

The OSCE Centre in Astana is transformed into the **OSCE Programme Office in Astana** with a mandate covering all three dimensions of security.



WHAT WE DO



POLITICO-MILITARY DIMENSION

Border management

- Promoting the OSCE's border security concept and integrated border management in Kazakhstan.
- Organizing training seminars on document security, underwater security, international profiling techniques, combating transnational organized crime, illegal trafficking of drugs and chemical precursors.

Parliamentary development and local self-governance

- Working with Kazakhstan's Parliament on enhancing the efficiency, accessibility, and transparency of parliamentary processes in Kazakhstan.
- Supporting the local self-governance reform process by providing capacity-building for maslikhats (local representative bodies).

Policing

- Working with Kazakhstan's police, law-enforcement agencies, and NGOs on projects to help strengthen regional security, enhance police management, counter cybercrime, combat illicit drug trafficking, violent extremism, terrorism, and other transnational threats while respecting human rights.
- Providing international expertise in support of security and law enforcement sector.
- Helping officials from the region to exchange experiences and enhance cross-border co-operation.

Women, Peace and Security

- Supporting Kazakhstan in the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and other Resolutions by providing capacity building activities advancing the role of women in the security sector.

Co-operation in the security sector

- Supporting Kazakhstan in strengthening OSCE Confidence- and Security-building Measures.
- Supporting the security sector co-operation in the regional context through promoting the Vienna Document 2011 and the Code of Conduct of Politico-Military Aspects of security.
- Working on securing and destroying surplus small arms and light weapons, and conventional ammunition.



Participants of the International Seminar on the Vienna Document 2011 held in Almaty, 22-24 April 2025.



Practical exercises with UAVs during the advanced Training of Trainers for UAV instructors held in Lenger, 4 October 2024.



Experts' visit to K-9 training center in Almaty, June 2025.

EXTRA-BUDGETARY ACTIVITIES

ADDRESSING CONTEMPORARY SAFETY AND SECURITY RISKS IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



Duration: 01 December 2023 - 31 May 2027

Objective: to contribute to the MoD life-cycle management of CA capacities and the Border Service capacities in countering risks of proliferation of SALW, CA and explosives from Afghanistan.

SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE POLICIES TO COUNTER CYBERCRIMES (PHASE I)



Duration: 1 August 2023 - 1 May 2026

Objective: supporting Kazakhstan in building a comprehensive, systematic approach to tackling cybercrimes through the development of a strategic document compliant with the international legal framework, capacity building of law enforcement instructors, and raising overall public cyber awareness.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION

Good governance

- Collaborating with key agencies to enhance national efforts in anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT), with a focus on improving risk assessment, recovering illegally transferred assets from the country, and building capacities among stakeholders to address emerging challenges related to illicit financial transactions;
- Promoting transparency and accountability principles to combat corruption, and facilitating prevention measures;
- Supporting the host country with the implementation of international commitments and monitoring mechanisms on AML/CFT and combating corruption, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Financial Action Task Force, the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development recommendations.

Connectivity and economic growth

- Supporting the host country in advancing cross-border trade and connectivity by collaborating with the respective state agencies to harmonize customs procedures and security measures.
- Organizing relevant capacity-building events to enhance transport security and port management capacities, aiming to promote the strengthening of transport corridors.
- Promoting the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in regions and rural areas of Kazakhstan, and with special focus on women economic empowerment.

Water management

- Supporting the host country at multiple levels to promote integrated water resources management by strengthening the planning and sustainable governance capacities of basin councils.
- Facilitating transboundary water co-operation through the promotion of dialogue, data sharing, and confidence-building measures among neighbouring OSCE participating States.
- Enhancing national expertise in the water sector by supporting the development and institutionalization of university-level (bachelor's degree) education standards and curricula focused on water resources management.

Disaster risk reduction

- Assisting the host country in strengthening national and local disaster risk preparedness and resilience by supporting the development and deployment of digital tools and technologies to enhance real-time monitoring, risk mapping, and forecasting capabilities.
- Supporting the civil protection system by enhancing the disaster response capacities of local communities, through the creation and training of school-based emergency response teams to ensure preparedness and community-level engagement in emergencies.

Environmental protection

- Strengthening environmental governance through the development of a number of national documents, strategies, and conducting assessments in co-operation with respective state and non-state partners;
- Supporting the host country in the implementation of various environmental-related commitments with the aim to promote sustainable development principles;
- Enhancing public participation and awareness in the environmental decision-making processes, and promoting principles of the Aarhus Convention;
- Building the next generation of environmental leaders by organizing programmes for youth, aimed at increasing the capacities, regional engagement, and policy influence of young professionals in water management, environmental protection and disaster risk reduction.



Participants of the specialized training seminar on the use of "Digital Safety Passports" and "Interactive Map" subsystems held from 12 to 23 May 2025 in Almaty.



The opening of the workshop "Removing Administrative Barriers Contributing to Corruption" held on 8-9 April 2025 in Kosshy.



Participants of the meeting of the Tobol-Torgay Basin Council dedicated to integrated water resources management and water conservation strategies held on 26 May 2025 in Kostanay.

HUMAN DIMENSION

Combating human trafficking

- Supporting state agencies in implementing effective anti-trafficking measures.
- Assisting with expertise in drafting legislation and providing capacity-building for Kazakhstan's officials, law enforcement officers, and judges.
- Creating training activities and simulation exercises to highlight international standards and tools for prevention, prosecution, and protection in combating trafficking (including tech-facilitated trafficking) in human beings.

Gender equality

- Raising awareness for gender issues in society and the prevention of harassment of women and girls in public places.
- Providing expertise to improve the legislative framework on equal rights and opportunities for women and men, as well as on preventing and combating domestic violence.
- Assisting in capacity building for local non-governmental organizations.

Human rights

- Supporting Kazakhstan in strengthening human rights and fundamental freedoms. A particular priority is to strengthen the country's national human rights institutions and civil society organizations.
- Partnering with stakeholders to implement ratified international human rights conventions, domestic laws and national action plans in compliance with OSCE principles and commitments.
- Assisting in promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Media freedom and development

- Working with a network of local journalists, media outlets, and government and civil society experts to promote transparency and fundamental rights.
- Encouraging public discourse on media legislation in Kazakhstan and supporting reform initiatives.
- Conducting capacity-building training courses for journalists covering a range of topics, including: human rights; ethical considerations in media coverage of gender issues; openness; access to information; and the utilization of new technological tools.

Rule of law

- Fostering dialogue between Kazakhstan's authorities and civil society on promoting the rule of law and strengthening democratic institutions.
- Assisting in aligning legislative reforms with international standards and OSCE principles and commitments.
- Facilitating analysis and discussion on proposed legislation to support the host country in its judicial reform process.



Participants of Central Asian Dialogue Platform "Women in Justice: Professional Development through Association", September 2025.



Participants of the Central Asian simulation-based training on human trafficking held in Kyrgyzstan, June 2025.



Press panel at the regional conference on combating domestic violence in Central Asia held in Almaty, 25 November 2024.

EXTRA-BUDGETARY ACTIVITIES

IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN KAZAKHSTAN



Duration: 17 September 2021 - 31 December 2026

Objective: to promote the rule of law and enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the justice system of Kazakhstan.

CONTACT INFORMATION

📍 OSCE Programme Office in Astana
10 Beibitshilik Street
Z10K8H4 Astana
Kazakhstan

☎ Office: +7 7172 580070

✉ poia@osce.org

📷 @osce_astana

📘 OSCE Programme Office in Astana

✂ @OSCEinAstana